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Memorandum to [redacted]

The lectures on Southeast Asia were well-conceived and fruitful and stimulating. I got much from them and appreciate the opportunity to have heard the men and received first hand the results of their years of experience and study.

Accommodations were so poor, however, that the full benefit of this expensive undertaking was not realized. In fact, so much of the potential good was dissipated that it was inefficient. It was made to appear, entirely without anyone's fault, that these lectures were a stepchild. In the first place, the room in which they were held should never be used in warm weather. It is cut off from all decent ventilation, and so accumulates heat and foul air. Probably louvres in place of the windows or other type of ventilators would help somewhat. Even when the heat abated somewhat the room was close and hot. There has probably been an attempt to surmount these conditions by loading the room with fans. This stirs the warm, foul air about, and at the same time adds a hearing obstacle. It also introduces a loud whir into the above mixture of irritations which adds to the soporific effect of the whole. Other little notes of discord obtruded themselves at times, such as refusal of the offices to even accept sealed envelopes containing roll call for transmittal, and a loud banging against the wall at one lecture for about an hour when bookshelves were being installed. That was mitigated for a while after protest. This is written entirely on the initiative of the undersigned and has no official character whatever. None of the professors entered any complaint. But everyone remarked on the "hot box" of a room, which was much worse during the warm weather than our offices.

The lectures would have gone over with greater force and evoked more stimulation and built up into a better-developed output if they had been presented in an environment more conducive to thought.

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